

8 September 2008

Chem-Bio News

1. LAWRENCEVILLE BIOTERROR LAB OPENING ON HOLD INDEFINITELY: *"At this rate, the war on bioterrorism may be over before the Allegheny County Health Department can use its new, state-of-the-art, \$5.6 million laboratory in Lawrenceville."*

2. UTAH MILITARY PERSONNEL SELL PLASMA FOR A COSTLY, UNPROVEN ANTHRAX SERUM: *"In Utah, radio ads and on-base brochures proclaiming 'The power to fight anthrax is in you!' are recruiting current and former members, who receive \$40 to \$45 per donation."*

3. U.S. LAWMAKERS WANT DETAILS OF ANTHRAX INVESTIGATION: *"A month after the FBI declared that a U.S. Army scientist was the anthrax killer of 2001, leading members of Congress are demanding more information about the seven-year investigation, saying they do not think that the bureau has proved its case."*

4. ERs ARE REOPENED AFTER CHEMICAL QUARANTINE: *"Two hospital emergency rooms were mostly reopened Sunday, a day after being shut down under quarantine when eight people sickened by a dangerous chemical's release sought treatment."*

5. MIKASA CHIEF ADMITS RESELLING TAINTED RICE: *"The president of Osaka-based rice-processing and marketing firm Mikasa Foods admitted Saturday authorizing the resale of tainted rice for consumption, saying he did so because the firm faced financial difficulties."*

6. THE MARKOV CASE - PICCADILLY CIRCUS: *"His code-name was Piccadilly..... According to Bulgarian secret-service files, he was the agent who assassinated Georgi Markov, code-named 'Wanderer', a Bulgarian émigré broadcaster who was poisoned in London in 1978."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

LAWRENCEVILLE BIOTERROR LAB OPENING ON HOLD INDEFINITELY

By Don Hopey
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
September 4, 2008

"At this rate, the war on bioterrorism may be over before the Allegheny County Health Department can use its new, state-of-the-art, \$5.6 million laboratory in Lawrenceville."

Another equipment problem -- this time related to the lab's sophisticated ventilation system -- is indefinitely delaying the opening of the lab project, originally proposed in 2002 and designed to test for the most deadly bioterrorism materials like anthrax, plague and botulism as well as a host of other infectious diseases."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08248/909275-53.stm>

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UTAH MILITARY PERSONNEL SELL PLASMA FOR A COSTLY, UNPROVEN ANTHRAX SERUM

By Matthew D. LaPlante
The Salt Lake Tribune
September 8, 2008

"But under a contract signed in the wake of 2001 anthrax attacks that killed five people, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is paying the company more than \$14,000 per dose of its anthrax immune globulin - which is years away from licensure.

To develop the serum, Winnipeg-based Cangene Corp. is relying on plasma donated by members of the U.S. military who have been vaccinated for anthrax and carry crucial antibodies.

In Utah, radio ads and on-base brochures proclaiming "The power to fight anthrax is in you!" are recruiting current and former members, who receive \$40 to \$45 per donation. That's about \$10 more than plasma donation centers across the Wasatch Front, though anthrax donors also are eligible for a bonus of about \$250 if they donate eight times in a month."

The full article can be found at: http://www.sltrib.com/ci_10409201

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U.S. LAWMAKERS WANT DETAILS OF ANTHRAX INVESTIGATION

By Scott Shane and Eric Lichtblau
The International Herald Tribune
September 7, 2008

"A month after the FBI declared that a U.S. Army scientist was the anthrax killer of 2001, leading members of Congress are demanding more information about the seven-year investigation, saying they do not think that the bureau has proved its case.

In a letter sent Friday to Robert Mueller 3rd, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Democratic leaders of the House Judiciary Committee said that "important and lingering questions remain that are crucial for you to address, especially since there will never be a trial to examine the facts of the case."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.ihl.com/articles/2008/09/07/america/anthrax.php>

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ERs ARE REOPENED AFTER CHEMICAL QUARANTINE

BNET Business Network

September 1, 2008

"Two hospital emergency rooms were mostly reopened Sunday, a day after being shut down under quarantine when eight people sickened by a dangerous chemical's release sought treatment."

"The chemical, which authorities said was likely the highly toxic material nitroaniline, was released when a barrel was dropped at the Ro-Corp. plant."

The full article can be found at: http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qn4188/is_20080901/ai_n28064864

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MIKASA CHIEF ADMITS RESELLING TAINTED RICE

The Yomiuri Shimbun

September 7, 2008

"The president of Osaka-based rice-processing and marketing firm Mikasa Foods admitted Saturday authorizing the resale of tainted rice for consumption, saying he did so because the firm faced financial difficulties.

Mitsuo Fuyuki also took responsibility for the wrongdoing, admitting he had ordered his subordinates to keep two account books and forge records to prevent the illegal actions from being uncovered."

"The press conference was held in response to an announcement by the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry on Friday that the firm in Kita Ward resold for edible use imported rice intended for industrial use that was tainted with cancer-causing toxic mold or higher-than-allowed levels of pesticide residue."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/20080907TDY02310.htm>

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THE MARKOV CASE - PICCADILLY CIRCUS

The Economist

September 4, 2008

"HIS code-name was Piccadilly. An Italian-born Dane, he was one of the most mysterious figures of the cold war. According to Bulgarian secret-service files, he was the agent who assassinated Georgi Markov, code-named "Wanderer", a Bulgarian émigré broadcaster who was poisoned in London in 1978. Destruction of documents and official obstruction seemed to have left the trail cold. But in a book being published on September 6th, Hristo Hristov, a Bulgarian investigative journalist, gives the results of searching 97 previously classified files, obtained after a three-year legal battle. They show details of training and payments to Piccadilly, and of the close links between the Bulgarian secret services and the Soviet KGB over the murder."

The full article can be found at: http://www.economist.com/world/europe/displaystory.cfm?story_id=12056788

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